



H.R. 3793 – Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 3793 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jason Altmire (D-PA) on October 10, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Armed Services Committee, but was never considered.

H.R. 3793 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 17, 2007.

Background

On March 6, 2007, President Bush issued an executive order that established the Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. He appointed former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to lead the commission.

The nine member commission conducted its own survey of 1700 service members and released its finding in July 31, 2007.

Among other findings, the commission found that the Department of Defense was applying a rule to combat injured veterans, which was intended to only prohibit enlistees from receiving their full bonus if they left the service early.

It was also reported throughout the press that injured troops returning from Iraq were being asked to return their enlistment bonus since they had not served the minimum amount of time required in the bonus' terms.

Summary

H.R. 3793 would require the Department of Defense to continue the payment of any bonus to a member of the armed forces that is either retired or separated as a result of combat related injury. This would include all bonuses the member was entitled to prior to retirement and would continue to be entitled to had the member not retired or been separated.

The payment of these bonuses would be made within 30 days in a lump sum regardless of the original terms of the bonus.

This legislation would apply to the following bonuses:

- Special pay for aviation career officers extending period of active duty.
- Multi year retention bonus for medical officers of the armed forces.
- Multi year retention bonus for dental officers of the armed forces.
- Accession bonus for registered nurses.
- Accession bonus for dental officers.
- Accession bonus for pharmacy officers.
- Accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties.
- Accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.
- Reenlistment bonus.
- Reenlistment bonus for members of the Selected Reserve.
- Bonus for affiliation or enlistment in the Selected Reserve.
- Bonus for enlistment in elements of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve.
- Bonus for reenlistment, or voluntary extension of enlistment in elements of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve.
- Prior service enlistment bonus.
- Affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve.
- Enlistment bonus.
- Special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active duty.
- Nuclear career accession bonus.
- Nuclear career annual incentive bonus.
- Engineering and scientific career continuation pay.
- Bonus for members with foreign language proficiency.

- Special pay for officers in critical acquisition positions extending period of active duty.
- Special pay for special warfare officers extending period of active duty.
- Surface warfare officer continuation pay.
- Judge advocate continuation pay.
- 15-year career status bonus for members entering service on or after August 1, 1986.
- Retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.
- Accession bonus for new officers in critical skills.
- Incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage.
- Incentive bonus for transfer between armed forces.
- Incentive bonus for retired members and reserve component members volunteering for high-demand, low-density assignments.
- Accession bonus for officer candidates.

Cost

The bill has not yet been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Additional Information

On October 16, 2007, the White House published a [fact sheet](#) on implementing the recommendations of the commission.

Staff Contacts

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